DALAI LAMA VISITS VICTIMS IN TAIWAN, PG8

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VANCOUVER • MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2009 metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz

Shania's new road of discovery
pg 18

Open your eyes to TELUS TV.

B.C. to have Canada's lowest minimum wage

N.B., with cost of living 34% lower than B.C., raising its rate

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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As of tomorrow, British Columbia will officially be the lowest of the low — it will pay the lowest minimum wage in Canada and have one of the highest costs of living.

Until now, B.C. and New Brunswick had been tied with the lowest minimum wages at $8 an hour.

But New Brunswick — which has a 34 per cent lower cost of living than B.C. — is boosting its wage to $8.25, leaving many British Columbians the poorest paid workers in Canada.

NDP Leader Carole James said it's a distinction for which the provincial Liberals should be "embarrassed."

She said it will be even worse next year when the HST kicks in.

James pointed out that when Premier Gordon Campbell was elected eight years ago, B.C. had the highest minimum wage in Canada, and there hasn't been an increase in all that time.

"There isn't anyone I know who hasn't seen their cost of living go up in the past eight years, and I think it'll be a sad legacy of this premier," James said.

Jim Sinclair, president of the B.C. Federation of Labour, said it's "ridiculous" to argue that raising wages would hurt the economy or the restaurant industry —which has been opposed to minimum wage hikes.

"It's crazy to argue that when people have money in their pocket it's bad for the economy," said Sinclair. "The premier has lowered the wage 25 per cent for new hires and immigrants. And what's he done with his own wage? He raised it by 109 per cent." Sinclair added that minimum wages are consistently adjusted to inflation in most other provinces and territories, and their economies are fine.

Wage rates

TOP THREE:
- Nunavut: $10
- Ontario: $9.50
- Saskatchewan: $9.25

BOTTOM THREE:
- PEI: $8.20, going up to $8.40 on Oct. 1.
- New Brunswick: $8.25
- B.C.: $8. Minimum wage for entry-level jobs is $6.

Cost of living among bottom three provinces:

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
- Minimum wage is $8.20, going up to $8.40 on Oct. 1.
- The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Charlottetown is $695.
- The average house costs $150,715.
- Gas is $1.04 a litre.

NEW BRUNSWICK
- Minimum wage goes up to $8.25 tomorrow.
- The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Saint John is $643.
- The average house in Saint John costs $156,010, and the provincial average is $152,086.
- Gas is 99.6 cents a litre.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
- Minimum wage is $8. Entry-level wages start at $6.
- The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Vancouver is $1,154, Victoria $1,043.
- The average house in Vancouver costs $584,105, and the provincial average is $463,972.
- Gas is $1.10 a litre.

SOURCES: THE FEDERAL LABOUR MINISTRY, CANADIAN MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION AND THE CANADIAN REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION.

Arts

Protesting cuts

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

People protest arts and culture program funding cuts at New Democrat MLA Spencer Herbert's office in Vancouver yesterday. Many groups are saddled with deficits and are scrambling to pay their bills after promised provincial gaming grants were scrapped.
Story, page 3.

Victoria's CHEK fades to black

MEDIA The province's oldest private television station goes off air tonight after more than a half century.

An employee-led bid to purchase Victoria's CHEK-TV was rejected by owner Canwest Global on Friday.

Richard Konwick, an assignment editor who has been at CHEK for the past eight years, said the bid's rejection was disappointing, but morale at the closing station is high.

"People have been really working hard to make something happen and it has been a really positive experience," said Konwick, who is president of the local Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada.

In July, Canwest announced it could not afford to keep CHEK running and had failed to find a buyer for the station.

According to media reports, employees and private investors had raised $2.5 million to purchase the station and put a formal bid to Canwest. The bid, however, did not meet Canwest's guidelines.

To mark the closure, CHEK is holding a celebration today to thank viewers and supporters. It will be included in the evening newscast.

"We're hoping to have lots and lots of people come and enjoy themselves," Konwick said.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

ShareYourViews
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Entertainment pg 14

Paradise Falls cranks quirky

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Buskers protest bylaw change
Buskers held a block party on Granville Street in downtown Vancouver to protest revised bylaws and guidelines to performing in the Entertainment District. Entertainers were demanding the right to perform until 2 a.m. on weekends, and to use amplifiers until 9 p.m. at English Bay. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Sundin ties the knot

It wasn't to the Vancouver Canucks, but Mats Sundin, 38, left, made a major commitment this weekend — he married 26-year-old Josephine Johansson in Stockholm. The more than 200 guests included various Swedish celebrities and NHL stars like Canucks forward Daniel Sedin and former Toronto Maple Leaf Tie Domi. METRO VANCOUVER

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
2009 Festival of Media Awards

News in brief

WINDOWS RCMP are looking for the person responsible for shattering two windows on a moving transit bus. While the objects that broke the windows were not found, Mounties believe they were "pellets or a similar projectile." They did not penetrate the bus.

REMAINS Foul play is suspected after human remains were discovered by a boater on the Fraser River, RCMP said. After an autopsy, investigators believe the remains are of Joshua Douglas Hedrick, 25, a missing Maple Ridge man.

LOST BOY A four-year-old boy who speaks mostly Mandarin was found alone on the Mariner overpass in Coquitlam, news1130.com reports. It took police more than two hours to reunite him with his parents. RCMP say charges are unlikely.

FATAL CRASH A 20-year-old Chilliwack woman is dead after a single-car crash where the black Acura MDX she was a passenger in left the road and hit a tree. Police say speed seems to have been a "major factor."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video North American stock markets gains may be tougher to come by this week as investors await employment numbers at **metronews.ca/canada**

Immigration Is a DUI conviction enough to keep you from crossing the border? Guidy Mamann has the answer at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries
Friday, Aug. 28
Lotto Super 7: 2, 10, 12, 33, 42, 44 & 45 Bonus 25
Extra: 49, 67, 73, 95
Saturday, Aug. 29
Lotto 6/49: 9, 10, 26, 29, 32 & 37 Bonus 12
BC 49: 10, 14, 23, 28, 32, 49, Bonus 29
Extra: 9, 25, 45, 91
These results are not official.

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Arts groups feel pinch

As provincial funding vanishes, some are worried about how to get by

JEFF HODSON
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B.C. arts and theatre groups are scrambling to pay debts and said yesterday that they are concerned about their survival because promised multi-year funding from provincial gaming revenue has evaporated.

The groups, which include the B.C. Children's Festival and Vancouver's Touchstone Theatre, say they were promised funding over three years and prepared their budgets accordingly.

The government, however, contends that funding was not guaranteed and that priorities for gaming grants include things like programs that provide hot lunches for underprivileged children.

Katrina Dunn, artistic director of Touchstone Theatre, said her company enjoyed one of its best seasons, but now find itself wrestling with its largest deficit in 35 years.

She said they were promised $120,000 over three years. They received $40,000 last year, but haven't received anything for this year and are worried that they won't receive any next year.

"Contracts are signed, programming is done," Dunn said. "It's a very large portion of our operating budget so it's a huge impact for Touchstone. Shows will be cancelled, people will be laid off."

Housing Minister Rich Coleman, whose ministry is responsible for distributing gaming grants, said the ministry has "technically" reduced the amount of funding that arts groups receive from gambling revenues.

He said the three-year grants applied only to the applications, meaning that groups wouldn't have to apply for the same grant every year and thereby reduce operating costs.

"It didn't guarantee that the grant would be there every year," he said.

New Democrat MLA Spencer Herbert said the grants represent "signed contracts" that the government is not honouring. He said some groups were considering legal action.

Coleman said his ministry funded $10 million in gambling revenue to the B.C. Arts Council, which also provides artistic grants.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

New Democrat MLAs Shane Simpson, right, and Spencer Herbert address the media at Herbert's West End constituency office yesterday.

Top women to face off

HOCKEY The world's top women hockey players are taking to the ice in Vancouver today at the start of a one-week, four-team tournament.

The 2009 Women's Hockey Canada Cup pits defending Olympic gold-medalist Canada against the United States, Finland and Sweden.

The tournament begins today with the USA taking on Finland at 3 p.m. at the University of B.C.'s new Thunderbird Arena. Canada takes on Olympic silver-medalist Sweden at 7:30 p.m.

"Whenever you have the top four teams in the world in one event, you know it's going to be competitive, fast, exciting hockey," Canada's head coach Melody Davidson said in a release.

The Hockey Canada Cup is being used as a test event for the Olympics.

Tickets for the games range from $10 to $20. The gold medal game, which will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at GM Place, costs $35. That game will also be broadcast on TSN.

JEFF HODSON /METRO VANCOUVER

Family of dead toddler thanks public

TRAGEDY The family of a toddler who was killed by a truck on a downtown Vancouver street has thanked the public for its "outpouring of condolences" and set up a trust fund to offset medical costs. The mother is still in hospital with serious leg injuries.

"To all those who have left flowers, whispered a prayer, or carried us in your thoughts, we want you to know it means a lot to us and we would like to say thank you from the depths of our hearts," the family said in a statement.

A fund has been set up at Coast Capital Savings and donations can be made to the Kazama family victim's trust account.

KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

Dry conditions help feed fires

BLAZES Warm temperatures and dry conditions are keeping about 400 wildfires burning throughout British Columbia and hundreds of people displaced.

Many more are on evacuation alert, as firefighters continue their labours late in the forest fire season.

The Pritchard fire in the Kamloops' Martin Mountain area has grown to 14 square kilometres and is zero per cent contained. It was within about 300 metres of homes yesterday.

While firefighters managed to establish fire guards in the Kelly Creek area, an evacuation order is in effect for about a dozen homes. The blaze, which is threatening the town of Clinton, has grown to 165 square kilometres and is burning within Edgehills Provincial Park.

The largest fire is at Lava Canyon, which is about 100 kilometres west of Williams Lake.

It's also uncontained and is roughly 520 square kilometres. METRO VANCOUVER

Three dead after stabbings

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Three people have been killed and one person was taken to hospital after a string of stabbings in the Lower Mainland.

A 37-year-old man and a yet-to-be identified female victim were stabbed to death, and a 33-year-old man was arrested, during an altercation at a McDonald's near Granville Street and No. 3 Road late Friday night.

Police are asking that witnesses, including a woman seen on Granville Street and two men who were in the restaurant at the time of the assault, to contact the RCMP or Crimestoppers.

Earlier that night, in an unrelated incident, a 36-year-old man was killed after being stabbed in an Abbotsford home.

Michael Allan Froese, 25, and Melissa Linda Cox, 28, have been charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death.

Police say the victim, whose name is being withheld at the request of his family, had an "extensive history" with them.

"(The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team) says both the suspects and victim knew each other," said RCMP Cpl. Dale Carr. "It's unknown whether there's a connection to drugs or organized crime."

A third stabbing that happened early yesterday morning in Burnaby sent one man to hospital in serious but stable condition.

Witnesses said the victim was stabbed at the Superstore and wound up at a Best Western hotel across the street, where he collapsed.

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B.C. athletes raise medal haul by 20 per cent

Team British Columbia increased its gold medal count by 20 per cent at the 2009 Canada Summer Games in Charlottetown, P.E.I. British Columbian athletes ended with 57 gold, 43 silver and 44 bronze medals for a total of 144 medals — 25 more medals than in the 2005 Games in Regina. METRO VANCOUVER

Police mum as search for missing woman ends

INVESTIGATION Police have concluded their search of a rural property near Prince George in relation to the disappearance of a missing tree planter from Alberta — one of 18 women to have disappeared along the stretch of road known as the Highway of Tears.

Nicole Hoar, 25, a woman from Red Deer, Alta., went missing on June 21, 2002, while hitchhiking to visit her sister in Smithers.

RCMP Cpl. Annie Linteau said police are unable to disclose whether any items of interest or human remains were located.

"It typically takes some time for investigators to determine the significance of any items collected," she said.

Mounties started combing through the property on Pinewood Road, west of Prince George, at the end of last week.

Yesterday, they also searched through a second location that appears to be an unauthorized dumping site.

Linteau said investigators are not expecting to find human remains at this location, but may find discarded items of interest.

"Of special interest is an abandoned vehicle found at that location that will be seized and forensically examined," Linteau said.

METRO VANCOUVER

History

- Nicole Hoar and 17 other women have vanished or been found dead since 1974 on a stretch of Highway 16 between Prince George and Prince Rupert. It has been dubbed the Highway of Tears.

Dad convinced of innocence

Jenkins' father plans to offer reward for capture of Fiore's killer

Ryan Jenkins' father said he believes his son is innocent and that he intends to offer a reward for the capture of Jasmine Fiore's killer.

Her body was found stuffed inside a suitcase and dumped in a trash bin near Los Angeles. The only suspect was her ex-husband, Calgary millionaire and reality TV participant Ryan Jenkins.

He was found hanged in a Hope motel on Aug. 23.

In a letter to a Calgary newspaper, Dan Jenkins said he believes his son spent his last three days "alone … watching the media report that he was the brutal killer of his own wife."

"On television it was as if he had been tried and convicted. I think in his loneliness and despair he simply gave up," Dan Jenkins said.

"Once I am in better shape, I intend to offer a reward for the capture of her killer. I offer my sincerest condolences for Jasmine's family."

The letter also says that the marriage to Fiore was passionate and tumultuous. They tied the knot three days after meeting and Ryan Jenkins later spent two days in jail for pushing Fiore into a Las Vegas hotel pool, claiming he saw her kiss another man.

Dan Jenkins said his son drove to Canada only at the behest of his mom after he thought that Fiore had left him for good.

He was found days later hanged at the Thunderbird Motel. An unidentified woman driving a PT Cruiser with Alberta licence plates checked him in.

On Friday, the RCMP said no charges will be filed against the woman because she helped him get the room one day before a criminal warrant was issued in Canada.

While she was never identified, the PT Cruiser was found at the Coal Harbour condo where Jenkins' half-sister lives.

METRO VANCOUVER

Show cancelled

- VH1 has announced that the airing of the reality TV show that Ryan Jenkins appears in, Megan Wants a Millionaire, has been cancelled.

Kayakers take to water in memory of cancer victims

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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FUNDRAISER When Kayak For a Cure started four years ago, the homegrown charity had 15 participants and raised $1,500 for cancer research and treatment.

Yesterday, the event, which is now in five cities in Canada and the United States, had 65 participants and raised $35,000 — an "incredible feat" considering its humble roots, said organizer Mark Starkey.

Starkey came up with idea for the fundraiser after his grandmother was diagnosed with leukemia.

"The fact that my grandmother was able to have this kind of impact on so many people is (amazing)," he said.

"(But) it's really about everyone's stories. We want to make sure that we honour everybody's stories."

Don Wilder's story is about his mother, who died of cancer in 2005. He joined the event in Victoria and Vancouver in her memory.

"A couple of years ago I was kayaking around Vancouver Island and … thought it would be nice to find a way to use a kayak to raise money for prevention of cancer," said Wilder.

He said he came back from his trip and learned that his vision was already a reality, and joined in the next Kayak For a Cure event.

"It's emotional because you're thinking about who you lost, but it's also a very rewarding experience as you try to raise money to help people," Wilder said.

"I will be here for the rest of my life with Kayak For a Cure."

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kayakers hit the water at Jericho Beach yesterday for the Kayak For a Cure fundraiser.

Ingenuity

- Two participants in Kayak For a Cure Vancouver – a father-and-daughter team – made their own kayak.

Teacher handed 6-month sentence for sexual exploitation of student

COURT A Lower Mainland private school teacher will serve six months in jail for the sexual exploitation of a male student, CBC News Online reports.

Her sentence, which was handed down Friday, includes a two-year probation, and she is not allowed contact with males between the ages of 14 and 18.

The woman had pleaded guilty and her lawyer had asked for a 90-day term that would be served on weekends so the former drama teacher could care for her children.

The court was told the teacher developed a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old student that led to oral sex and intercourse.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

FATALITY A 21-year-old man from Hope is dead after the car he was in lost control while attempting to pass on a road marked with double solid lines and rolled several times in a corn field. Police say there is evidence that speed was a factor.

STATS Overall crime in Vancouver dropped six per cent in 2008, according to the police's annual report. Chief Jim Chu said while property crimes and car thefts were down significantly, violent crime registered only a small drop.

SUSPECT A man wanted by police in connection with two armed robberies in Burnaby has turned himself in. Hunter Paul Harcus, 28, walked into the Main Street police station in Vancouver on Saturday.

STABBING A man is dead and another is in custody after a stabbing in Sechelt. Officers were called to a home on Sechelt Inlet Road, where they found the victim and suspect, who were known to each other, police said. Murder charges are pending. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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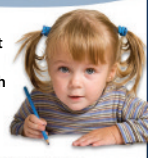

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Court clears man for takeoff

The Canadian Human Rights Commission has ruled in favour of a Winnipeg pilot who was forced into retirement, CBC News Online reports. Raymond Hall is part of a group of Air Canada pilots called Fly Past 60, that was formed to protest the company's mandatory retirement age of 60. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

Man rapped for school threats

A New Brunswick man has received a conditional discharge for threatening a school principal who scaled back the daily singing of O Canada at his daughter's school, CBC News Online reports. Bradley Howland, 43, of Hatfield Point, was also ordered Friday to stay away from Erik Millett and Millett's partner, and not to go near the school for eight months unless accompanied by his wife. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Liberals to test mood over vote

Polling expected to show that Harper strengthened position this summer

Federal Liberals will get a detailed picture of the Canadian public opinion landscape during this week's caucus retreat in Sudbury, Ont. — a meeting bound to be pivotal in determining whether the country will go the polls yet again.

If the Sudbury polling presentation is any way similar to the one that the Ontario Liberals received last week — and chances are it will be given that it's coming from the same polling firm — then it might arouse some sobering second thoughts about provoking an election this fall.

"I don't think there's a presumption that every time there's an opportunity to have an election that you have to do it. We still want to see Parliament work."
Senator David Smith

Last week, in a closed-door presentation at the First Canadian Place offices of the Toronto Board of Trade, dozens of Ontario Liberal MPPs were treated to a presentation by Pollara president Don Guy in which they reportedly learned that it has been a good summer for Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Conservative "brand."

From this, some provincial Liberals inferred that it hasn't been that great a summer for federal Leader Michael Ignatieff — and that this fall might not be the best time to put this to a vote.

One such sign came late last week when Senator David Smith, one of the campaign chiefs, said flatly that Liberals weren't going to provoke an election over employment-insurance reform and that it would be "irresponsible" to defeat Harper's government at the earliest opportunity.

"I don't think there's a presumption that every time there's an opportunity to have an election that you have to do it. We still want to see Parliament work," he said.

One senior Liberal MP, speaking off the record, warned that Ignatieff himself is more bullish about an election.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New U.S. envoy Doer called 'very pragmatic'

POLITICS Gary Doer, Canada's choice as the next ambassador to the United States, is a pragmatist who is skilled at reaching out across partisan and international boundaries, according to friends and observers.

Doer

Prime Minister Stephen Harper surprised political pundits Friday by selecting Doer, a member of the New Democratic Party who has served as premier of Manitoba for the past decade.

The move means Canada's most conservative government in recent years will have a member of NDP as its public face in dealings with a U.S. government that moved left with the last election.

Doer, who pulled his own surprise Thursday by announcing his retirement as premier, had a good working relationship with Harper despite any political differences, said Paul Thomas, a University of Manitoba political scientist.

"He's a very pragmatic person," Thomas said.

Doer, 61, entered politics from the labor movement, and served as leader of Manitoba's official opposition for nine years before the NDP finally won power in 1999. He has been re-elected twice as premier.

Doer was the longest serving of Canada's provincial and territorial premiers. REUTERS

Clinton lauds Ted Kennedy

VISIT The sun shines, and audiences beam, for Bill Clinton.

Or at least they did Saturday, when the skies cleared in time for the former U.S. president to address almost 12,000 spectators at BMO Field at the Canadian National Exhibition.

The speech was called Embracing our Common Humanity, a theme and title Clinton has used in the past. But his words Saturday were tailored to a Canadian audience.

He evoked Canada's First Nations to elucidate the urban-rural divide, spoke of Canada's presence in Afghanistan, and referenced Alberta's oilsands with regard to climate change.

But before he did any of that, Clinton, who had just flown to Toronto from the Boston funeral of Senator Edward Kennedy, opened his remarks with words of remembrance of the late senator.

MARK BLINCH/REUTERS
Former U.S. president Bill Clinton speaks Saturday during his Embracing Our Common Humanity speech in Toronto.

"I knew him for more than 30 years," he said. "We worked together, sometimes we fought ... but throughout it all I cherished my relationship with him because he proved that public service was an honourable way to live."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadians lacking in vitamin C

RESEARCH As many as one in seven young Canadian adults may be deficient in vitamin C, which could place them at increased risk for chronic health problems, according to new research.

Dr. Ahmed El-Sohemy, of the University of Toronto, and his team found that 33 per cent of nearly 1,000 Canadian adults they tested had suboptimal levels, and the remaining 14 per cent, one in seven, had deficient levels.

Vitamin C deficiency "is easily preventable," El-Sohemy said.

He suggested eating vitamin C-containing fruits and vegetables, such as citrus fruits and peppers, or to take supplements to reach recommended intakes of 90 and 75 milligrams a day for men and women, respectively. REUTERS

News in brief

COURTS Does an obstetrician have a duty of care to an unborn child? A Guelph, Ont., hospital, citing a 2008 court decision that found a doctor had no such obligation in the case of a girl born with birth defects because of an acne drug prescribed to her mother, says no. But the family of another child say yes.

FIREARMS It's like an eBay for guns. When Mississauga, Ont.'s Dennis Hingsberg's website, GunAddicts.com, launches tomorrow, firearm lovers from across the country will be able to buy and auction off guns to their fellow enthusiasts. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Germany's ruling party takes losses in regional vote, but still holds lead

Chancellor Angela Merkel's party suffered losses in German regional elections yesterday, a setback that could hurt her chances of forming the centre-right government she wants after next month's federal vote. Merkel's conservatives hold a comfortable 12-15 point lead in national polls over their main rivals, the centre-left Social Democrats. REUTERS

World

Olmert indicted over scandals

Former Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert was indicted yesterday over corruption scandals that forced him to resign last year. The charges stem from allegations he took cash payments from a U.S. businessman, advanced the interests of clients of a former law partner and double-billed Israeli charities for overseas travel expenses during fundraising trips. REUTERS

Dalai Lama visits Taiwan

China denounces leader's trip to comfort typhoon victims

The Dalai Lama, a Tibetan spiritual leader reviled by China as a separatist, arrived in Taiwan yesterday for a hasty visit to comfort victims of a typhoon, testing the island's improved ties with Beijing.

China opposes the Dalai Lama's trips abroad and condemned Taiwan opposition leaders for inviting him last week to visit until Friday.

He will pray for victims of Typhoon Morakot, Taiwan's worst storm in 50 years, which killed up to 745 people.

Beijing-friendly Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou, widely accused of a slow disaster response, allowed the Dalai Lama's visit, a populist move that he declined last year as ties with China were warming quickly after 60 years of hostilities. China has claimed sovereignty over Taiwan since 1949.

NICKY LOH / REUTERS

Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama and Kaohsiung Mayor Chen Chu greet the media as they arrive in Kaohsiung City in southern Taiwan yesterday.

The Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule, flew from India to Taiwan's main international airport for a mass prayer and other religious activities in storm-hit southern Taiwan.

"First, it's humanitarian," the Dalai Lama, wearing his signature orange robe, told reporters, describing his visit to Taiwan. He said before departure he had been invited by Taiwan's "people" and planned only to comfort victims of this month's typhoon, Taiwan's Central News Agency reported. REUTERS

Al-Qaida names bomber in attack on Saudi prince

JEDDAH Al-Qaida yesterday identified a militant who tried to kill Saudi Arabia's security chief on Thursday as Abdullah al-Asiri, a wanted suspect who entered Saudi Arabia from Yemen.

Abdullah al-Asiri

A suicide bomber posing as a repentant militant blew himself up in the Jeddah office of Prince Mohammed bin Nayef in the first known attack on a member of the Saudi royal family since al Qaeda began a violent campaign in the world's top oil exporter in 2003. The prince was lightly wounded and is expected to recover.

"The hero martyr on the list of 85 wanted persons Abdullah Hassan Tali' al-Asiri, known as Abul-Khair, managed to enter his palace, pass his guards and blow up a package," said a statement on Islamist websites attributed to the "Qaeda Jihad Organisation in the Arab Peninsula".

The statement suggested Asiri was apparently flown to Jeddah from Najran near the Yemeni border after entering from Yemen to give himself up to the Interior Ministry.

It was not possible to verify the statement, which said the Saudi government had a network of spies in Yemen of which the Yemeni government was not aware. REUTERS

Democrats win Japanese election

POLITICS Japan's next leader Yukio Hatoyama, fresh from a historic election win, faces the task of forming a government to tackle challenges such as reviving the economy and steering a new course with close ally Washington.

Yesterday's victory by the Democratic Party of Japan ends a half-century of almost unbroken rule by the Liberal Democratic Party and breaks a deadlock in parliament, ushering in a regime that has vowed to focus spending on consumers, cut wasteful budget outlays and reduce the power of bureaucrats.

But the untested Democrats, which will face an upper house election in less than a year, will have to move quickly to keep support among voters worried about a record jobless rate and a rapidly ageing society that is inflating social security costs.

Media forecasts show the Democrats with about 307 seats in the 480-seat lower house, compared with only 119 for the LDP. REUTERS

Two pilots killed in air show crash

RADOM Two Belarussian Air Force pilots were killed yesterday when their SU-27 fighter plane crashed during an aerial acrobatics display at an air show in central Poland, police said.

"The two pilots did not manage to catapult to safety and were killed in the crash but there were no other casualties," said police spokeswoman Agnieszka Humelusz in Radom, a city about 100 kilometres from Warsaw.

Witness Leszek Kopec told Reuters by telephone: "The SU-27 crashed far beyond the spectator area minutes after begining its aerial performance." REUTERS

Thousands evacuated from Calif. wildfire

CALIFORNIA Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said an "out of control" wildfire in the Los Angeles foothills had forced the evacuation of thousands of homes and threatened 12,500 buildings in the heavily populated area.

The heat-driven fire nearly doubled in size over-night and has now burned 35,000 acres of bone-dry brush in the mountains above five towns, a 10-mile stretch from La Crescenta to Pasadena, the California Fire Department said. About 10,000 homes are under evacuation orders.

"These fires are still totally out of control," Schwarzenegger told reporters at the fire's command post in Lakeview Terrace.

GENE BLEVINS / REUTERS

A firefighter watches a water drop at the Station Fire in Angeles National Forest Friday.

"This is a huge and very dangerous fire. The fire is moving very close to homes and to structures."

Three remote homes have been destroyed so far and some 10,000 others and 2,500 other buildings are in danger, as is Mount Wilson, the nexus for key telecommunications facilities, including TV and radio transmission towers.

The fire that started Wednesday above the exclusive community of La Canada Flintridge is only five per cent contained, but firefighters may benefit from cooler temperatures headed toward the area. The cause of the fire is being investigated. REUTERS

News in brief

ABDUCTION The couple accused of kidnapping an 11-year-old girl and keeping her hidden for 18 years pleaded not guilty to dozens of charges on Friday as police searched their home for evidence related to murders of prostitutes in the 1990s. Phillip Garrido, 58, and his wife, Nancy, appeared in El Dorado County Superior Court to answer 29 criminal counts that included kidnapping for sexual purposes, forcible lewd acts on a child and rape. Police apologized for failing to follow up an anonymous tip in 2006 that could have led them to Jaycee Dugard. REUTERS

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1,000 tonnes of landfill from replaced cellphones
About 9.3 million mobile phones are replaced in Canada every year, which equates to around 1,000 tonnes of landfill (and a bunch of nasty chemicals), according to Change The World for Ten Bucks: 50 Ways To Make A Difference. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Going Green

Saving time and space
U.S.-based Zigo Inc. says its Zigo Leader can convert from a stand-alone bicycle to one with front-attached kid trailer, left, to a stroller in under a minute. But saving time and space doesn't come cheap. The mom- or dad- powered system costs $1,349 US. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Striking a balance

EarthTones

We think that environmental responsibility starts when activism meets pragmatism. In our youth, one member of this team was an industry-hating, tree-hugging environmentalist.

Upon aging, however we realize that, as appealing as it sometime sounds, we can't just live in a cave and eat nuts and berries. Modern life requires stuff, stuff must be made of raw material that must be generated and needs energy and equipment to make it into the stuff we want and that requires industry. Industry provides jobs, and is the backbone of communities. Therefore polluting industries cannot just be closed or fined out of existence. We can only move forward by partnering with these industries and helping them to become environmental responsible and sustainable.

The mining industry is a case in point. Traditionally a very important part of Canada's resource based economy, it has historically been very bad for the environment. But we can't just stop mining. For the sake of the economy, of people and communities that depend on mining, and because we need the raw materials to make stuff.

Natural Resources Canada is trying to strike a balance between environmental and industrial interests with their Green Mining Initiative (GMI). The GMI is intended as a holistic approach that addresses all mining issues. Its themes are footprint reduction, innovation in mine waste management, ecosystem risk management, and mine closure and rehabilitation.

We will watch with interest for the results of the GMI.

Sophia Dore is an environmental scientist with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. Andrew Laursen is an assistant professor at Ryerson University; earthtones.metro@gmail.com.

Dining on sustainable sushi

Eco-Minded

Sushi. Those tasty little morsels of fish-on-rice are a big part of West Coast living. But can it last? While we munch our motoyaki, experts tell us global fisheries are collapsing. If we keep fishing down the food web, the tuna tataki on that menu could be replaced with jellyfish juice within our lifetimes.

Collapsing fisheries mean collapsing livelihoods for millions of the world's poorest. So, what to do? Swear-off spicy tuna roll and stay home instead? Not necessary. The trick is knowing what's caught where, and how.

For example, pole-caught B.C. albacore tuna? Sustainable! Sadly, most other tuna isn't. Salmon? Wild trumps farmed. Scallops? Other way around.

For a sustainable sushi guide, google SeaChoice, a Canadian non-profit. They even have an iPhone app. Armed with their expert advice, you're ready to hit the sushi bar.

Or are you?

A problem remains: most sushi joints don't advertise how their merchandise was caught. What's worse, often the chefs themselves don't know! And seafood wholesalers can be strangely secretive.

We clearly need a sea change in sushi culture. Where to start? With a dare: The next time you go out for Japanese, ask your server where your order-of-choice comes from and how it was caught.

Chances are they'll ask the chef. If the final answer's murky, switch your order to something safer. Say why. Make this a habit and our local chefs will start to get the message: Sustainable seafood means sustainable business.

What's in, or out

- Not all tuna is created equal. Pole-caught Pacific albacore is OK. Eating endangered bluefin is about as ethical as eating Giant Panda meat.
- Wild-caught east coast shrimp are sustainable. Shrimp farms in south and southeast Asia are not.

Kai Chan is an assistant professor and Canada Research Chair at the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (IRES) at UBC; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

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Comment

Earning brownie points

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

Today I came face to face with the truth about my own maturity level. In some 30 years of being an adult, the only thing I've grown out of is my jeans.

This morning, my sister Keltie called. Our conversation went something like this:

Keltie: I've been thinking about the big family occasion coming up and ...

Me: Me! Me! I'll do everything! I'll cook! I'll clean! I'll get the gift and the card and the cake and my kids will hand-sew a banner and write a commemorative poem and ...

Keltie: What can I do to help?

Me: You can remind me what we're celebrating.

Keltie: Anne, are you sure you want to do all this?

Me: Would I offer if I didn't want to?

This is a ridiculous question. Of course I would. The fact is, though, there is one thing hosting this gathering that will bring me what I can't get anywhere else. Not quality time with my family. I'm talking about brownie points.

SunnySide

Loosely defined, in any group of siblings brownie points means, "Mom always liked me best but just to make sure, look, I've bought her a car." To acquire brownie points you simply need to one-up your brothers and sisters in any small way. A sample scale is as follows:

Calling Mom even when you don't need her to babysit = four points.

Helping Dad organize the basement = six points (Add an additional two points for not saying, "Do you really need to keep your bowling score cards from 1948?" more than three times.)

Acting straight in front of great aunt Elsie = 1,200 points.

Producing grandchildren = 200 million billion points.

Years ago, I read a book entitled, Siblings Without Rivalry. Frankly, they might as well have called it Living Without Breathing. In most families, vying for parental approval seems to be the norm. I asked a family psychology expert why this is.

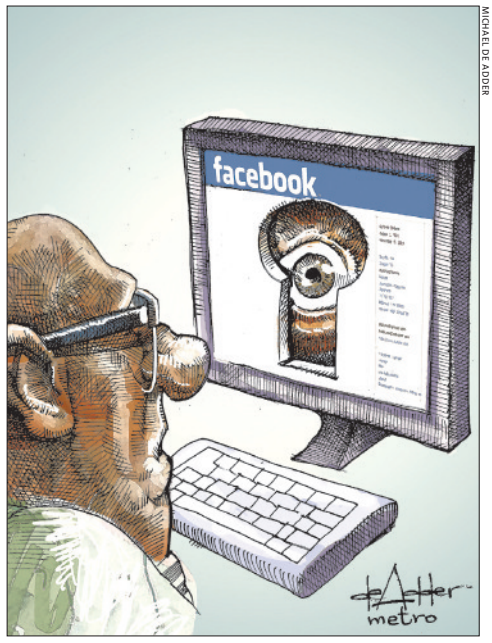
Learned doctor: In the early history of humankind, a child's need to establish their superior status in the affections of parents stemmed from his/her instinct to secure protection from predators.

Me: And in modern times?

Learned doctor: Now we're just brats.

I myself do not approve of petty competition between brothers and sisters. Unless, of course, I'm winning. But there's a bigger problem with brownie points. At the end of the day I have a sneaking suspicion Mom loves us all the same.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Erickson design leaves towering legacy

InTransit

Derek Moscato

dmoscato@yahoo.com

When Arthur Erickson passed away earlier this year, it marked the end of an ambitious era for city building in Metro Vancouver. The West Coast architect left a legacy here that is both acclaimed and controversial — from downtown's Robson Square to the Museum of Anthropology to the Burnaby Mountain campus of Simon Fraser University.

As it turns out, there's a good chance one of Erickson's boldest designs for the city will be carried out posthumously.

His final architectural statement for downtown, the twisting, 60-storey Ritz-Carlton Vancouver skyscraper, has yet to rise. The $500-million condominium/hotel project came to a halt last October during the darkest stretch of the global economic crisis.

The Ritz-Carlton luxury hotel brand, for what it's worth, pulled out of the deal. Today, the primary marker for the project on West Georgia Street is a massive hole in the ground.

Given the financial challenges faced by the Holborn Group, the project's developer, speculation had been rife that Erickson's dramatic tower design would be shelved in favour of something blander and cheaper.

But Holborn president Joo Kim Tiah assured me that his firm wanted to hold on to the development, complete with Erickson design, at all costs. His goal was to re-price the project by taking advantage of lowered building costs and allow for more residential density on the site.

That plan is starting to take shape — and looks increasingly realistic, given that the worst of the recession seems to be behind us.

The construction industry publication Journal of Commerce reported last week that Holborn is moving forward — with support from the City of Vancouver — to get a revised building plan approved before year's end. In addition to being more affordable to buyers while adding more condominiums, this new plan would include more height — making it the tallest building in the downtown peninsula.

There's even talk of Ritz-Carlton returning.

For this tower to rise from the ashes would be hugely symbolic for a city and a province that have been ravaged economically by recession — and it would provide a post-Olympics focal point of building activity for this region.

More importantly, it would mean that Arthur Erickson's vision for Vancouver — of bolder, more creative highrise architecture, and a rejection of conventional, cookie-cutter designs — won't be left on the drawing table.

How's that for shoring up a hometown legacy?

Derek Moscato is a writer with a focus on urban issues, transportation, architecture and economics; dmoscato@yahoo.com.

Worth mentioning

Networking sites aiding burglars, report finds

Facebook users enthusing about an upcoming holiday or a recently purchased high-tech gadget may not just be telling their friends but also potential burglars, warns an insurance company.

A survey of 2,092 social media users by British-based Legal & General found nearly four in 10, or 38 per cent, of people using social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter post details about holiday plans and 33 per cent details of a weekend away.

13 Men were found to be quite relaxed about giving personal information online, with 13 per cent including their cellphone number on their profile compared with seven per cent of women. Nine per cent of men also posted their address compared to four per cent of women.

In a report called The Digital Criminal, Legal & General said people used social media sites to connect with people who were essentially strangers, which could provide potential thieves with vital, personal information.

Reformed burglar Michael Fraser, who helped Legal & General prepare the report, said this personal information was being used by professional burglars to establish a list of targets. REUTERS

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California bank closed by U.S. regulators
U.S. bank regulators closed Affinity Bank of Ventura, Ca., Friday, the 84th U.S. bank to fail this year as economic weakness continues to take a toll on financial institutions. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said Affinity had $1 billion in assets and about $922 million in deposits. REUTERS

Business

Dealers warned on 'cash for clunkers'

Ontario's regulator for auto dealers has warned that using the "cash for clunkers" phrase in promotions is deceptive and misleading. The Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council issued the warning recently and a cease-and-desist order against a group of dealers at an auto mall in the Toronto area. It came after they constructed a website offering up to $4,500 to scrap old vehicles and buy new models, suggesting it was tied to a government program. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

NORTEL Bankrupt Canadian telecom equipment maker Nortel Networks Corp. owes the United States Internal Revenue Service a staggering $3 billion in taxes and interest, according to a claim filed in the company's bankruptcy case.

STEEL U.S. Steel is restarting the blast furnace at its Hamilton, Ont., mill after a nine-month shutdown, the company said on Friday, adding that demand for the metal was picking up.

WHIRLPOOL Whirlpool Corp. plans to shut a plant in Evansville, Ind., and move some production to Mexico next year, a change that will eliminate about 1.6 per cent of the world's biggest appliance maker's workforce.

OIL OPEC is likely to keep oil production targets unchanged when it meets in September on expectations that demand will strengthen over winter as the global economic recovery gathers pace, a senior Gulf OPEC delegate said. REUTERS

Christmas already?

Boxes of red velvet Santas and pre-lit Christmas trees line the aisles at a Costco store in Toronto — right next to the barbecues left over from an unseasonably cool and economically challenging summer.

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shoppers still in their summer shorts pass by a Christmas display at Costco in Toronto last week.

The Sears Christmas catalogue landed on John Williams's doorstep two weeks ago — the day after he got back from a warm summer holiday.

It seems Christmas is coming earlier every year, and some consumers are far from happy.

"It's disgusting," said Lori Yarrow, a Costco customer, last week. "People already complain it's too commercial. You come to Costco and overindulge and you think, 'It's August, and I should be buying for Christmas?'"

Not that long ago, consumers seemed surprised to see Christmas decor in the stores before Halloween.

This year, the season seems to have started well before Labour Day.

But after a disastrous Christmas last year and lacklustre sales most of this year, many retailers are desperate to make up the shortfall in the final four months.

Holiday sales can account for as much as 40 per cent of annual sales, more for those who specialize in giftware.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BMO offers 5 SmartSteps on organizing finances

The Bank of Montreal launched a program in June called SmartSteps to give clients practical tips on organizing their finances during the recession.

Branch staff give customers a small blue booklet that centres on five practical tips to lower fees, reduce interest costs and pay less money in taxes.

The tips are:

1 Start an automatic savings plan. By saving $50 a week, one can save $2,600 plus interest in a year.

2 Control bank fees by choosing the right plan; too many people fritter away money on debit fees.

3 Pay your mortgage bi-weekly to pay off the loan four years faster. It is possible to save more than $47,000 in interest charges that way.

4 Take advantage of the tax-free savings accounts.

5 Avoid nasty penalties for insufficient funds through automated money transfers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Land deals becoming covert

GULF States seeking farmland for food security are going underground as the deals, seen by many as land grabs, risk tarnishing their reputation, a consultant advising the region on the deals said yesterday.

Gulf Arab countries have been buying up farmland throughout the developing nations to ensure future food security, following spikes in basic commodity prices.

REUTERS

Raikkonen regains F1 form

Kimi Raikkonen held off Force India driver Giancarlo Fisichella to win Formula One's Belgian Grand Prix, the Ferrari driver's fourth triumph at the track in the past five years. The former champion, who started sixth yesterday, overtook pole sitter Fisichella after the safety car came in following accidents on the opening lap. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

More to come: Bolt

Fresh from setting a pair of world records, Usain Bolt, left, is ready to go faster. The Jamaican sprinter said yesterday that by analyzing his recent races, he will be able to improve on his record times of 9.58 seconds in the 100 metres and 19.19 in the 200.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Men's eight take world silver

Canadians second to Germany in final, new crew left looking for answers

Canada's predicament in the men's eight final at the world rowing championships was summed up succinctly by Olympic gold medallist Malcolm Howard:

"The truth of it is the Germans asked us the question in the middle of that race and we didn't have the answer for it," Howard said.

They have plenty of time to find it between now and the 2012 London Olympics. Also, they aren't the only Canadian crew looking for answers.

It was a strong showing for the Canadian men's eight yesterday at Poznan, Poland, winning a silver medal behind the Germans with only two members returning from the squad that was dominant in winning Olympic gold last summer. The Germans, looking for revenge after not making the final in Beijing, won by more than three seconds.

"If you want to talk in terms of Olympic cycles, this is a fantastic start."
Mark Laidlaw, coxswain

"If you want to talk in terms of Olympic cycles, this is a fantastic start," coxswain Mark Laidlaw of Mississauga said. "We've got a very strong group and a very enthusiastic group, which I think is even equally important as to how strong it is."

There was some disappointment among the other crews, particularly the lightweight doubles in which Doug Vandor of Dewittville, Que., and Cam Sylvester of Caledon, Ont. were fifth in the men's race and Sheryl Preston of North Delta, B.C., and Lindsay Jennerich of Victoria were last among six in the women's final. The Canadian women's eight was also sixth. Both lightweight crews were expected to contend, but coach Mike Spracklen thought they succumbed to the pressure.

"They were capable of being amongst the leaders fighting for medals, but neither performed," Spracklen said. "It's unusual to get two boats that don't perform, but unfortunately that's what happened."

Spracklen was delighted to see the men's eight so competitive so soon after Beijing with a new crew and said he is confident the program is moving in the right direction under new high performance director Peter Cookson.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Federer eyeing U.S. Open record

TENNIS Roger Federer and Serena Williams will begin the defence of their U.S. Open titles at Flushing Meadows today.

World No. 1 Federer, chasing a modern-day record sixth straight title at Flushing Meadows, plays American wild card Devin Britton in the first round in his first grand-slam event since the birth of his twin daughters last month.

The Swiss, bidding to add the U.S. Open to the French Open and Wimbledon titles he won earlier this year, is hoping to equal the mark set by Bill Tilden in the 1920s.

REUTERS

Blue Jays Play at the plate

ADAM HUNGER/REUTERS

Boston's J.D. Drew scores around Toronto catcher Rod Barajas on an RBI single by Alex Gonzalez yesterday at Fenway Park in Boston. The Red Sox beat the slumping Blue Jays 7-0.

Sports in brief

GOLF Heath Slocum won the opening of golf's playoffs, The Barclays, yesterday by sinking a 20-foot par putt on the final hole for a one-shot victory over Steve Stricker. Slocum finished the tournament at 9-under. Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., shot 71 to finish tied for 33rd.

BASKETBALL Andrew Rautins dished up six three-pointers, but it wasn't enough as Canada wrapped up preliminary-round play at the FIBA Americas basketball tournament with a 90-70 loss yesterday against host Puerto Rico.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Membership has its privileges

It's Called Football

Ben Rycroft

metronews.ca/itscalledfootball

Let's have some fun with this: Toronto FC director of business operations Paul Beirne posed the question to some of the TFC supporters groups last week — if the club had a membership, what should it include and how much should it cost?

TFC is looking at it in terms of the European model, which, in some cases, allows members to vote out presidents, coaches and have a say on the operations of the team.

"How about Carl Robinson cooking you breakfast? Or maybe Danny Dichio looks after your Grandma and has a nice cup of tea with her."

The cynics, as they often do in Toronto, have jumped all over the quasi-proposal "as just another way for MLSE to get its money grubbing hands on our hard earned dollars." It's an argument that is as accurate as it is tired and worn out. MLSE is a business. It aims to make money. Get over it.

I'm by no means in favour of the blind-support movement, but the opportunity to get creative with this open-ended proposal is too tempting to pass up. Ask for anything? OK, I will.

Some things I'd like to see included in the Toronto FC membership:

One day a year, a Toronto FC player comes to your house to help out. Chad Barrett could cut your lawn. How about Carl Robinson cooking you breakfast? Or maybe Danny Dichio looks after your Grandma and has a nice cup of tea with her.

Maybe you're thinking, "I don't care how hard a worker Chad Barrett is. I don't need him tending to my lawn. I want the team to win."

So how about in years the team doesn't make the playoffs, the members get to choose someone from the MLSE brass to go in a carnival dunk tank? Someone like Richard Peddie, for example.

In the same spirit, how about an annual Survivor contest? Fans could choose three players deemed to be the most overpaid/rated/played and send them off to an island. The survivor comes back next season to play with the team. This would take that whole competing-for-positions thing that coach Chris Cummins likes to another level.

Annual TFC WAG (wives and girlfriends) calendars; control of supporters' section seating; and a lower, flat rate on beer would all be nice, too.

MLSE can dress it up all it wants, but at the end of the day the best way to engage soccer fans isn't through gimmicks like a membership. The best way to engage soccer fans is through open, transparent dealings — something a lot of supporters have been clamouring for lately.

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football show every Monday at metronews.ca; ben.rycroft@metronews.ca

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Provincial funding cuts affect uAlberta disability help centre
When the Alberta government decided last December not to renew an annual $2.5-million provincewide grant for exam accommodations, the University of Alberta's student disability help centre lost nearly a fifth of its funding. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

New alarm system at Carleton

Last week, Carleton University launched its new Emergency Notification System, which it calls the most comprehensive of its kind on a university campus in the country. The system can issue a PC desktop alert delivering an on-screen message as it locks thousands of on-campus computers, mass e-mail notifications, and text messages. Carleton recently settled a lawsuit with a student assaulted on campus two years ago who accused the school of failing to provide adequate safety measures. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

The double standard

Studies show women thriving and men aren't adapting

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

As equality in the workplace becomes less elusive for women, inequalities in home life still threaten to hold them back.

Reports from Statistics Canada show that while men are doing more household chores and women are doing more paid work, men still spend only 1.4 hours per day on housework compared to the 2.4 hours on average done by women.

The result is that while women have continued to break down barriers in the workplace, they still face the challenge of having to do more work at home than men as well as a double-standard of being seen as innately overstretched by their responsibilities.

When Ontario Superior Court judge Douglas Cunningham told a courtroom in August that he felt Ontario MPP Lisa MacLeod's testimony in the corruption trial of Ottawa mayor Larry O'Brien was unreliable because she had "a number of rather significant things going on in her life," including taking care of her kids, many in the public and the media took that to mean he didn't think a busy woman could give reliable testimony.

Carissa Reiniger, president of Women Entrepreneurs of Canada, says while the context of the judge's comments is still up to debate, the perception of working women as less competent at juggling complex lives than men is a common one that boils down mostly to changing gender roles, primarily being changed by women.

"If you look at what's happened in the last 60 years, women have put a lot of time and effort into adjusting their role, to entrench themselves into what have traditionally been masculine roles but often they still have to take care of the family," Reiniger said.

"Unfortunately for a long time the stereotype has been that you've got to be a horrible person as a woman to succeed like a man. That's not true."
Women Entrepreneurs of Canada President Carissa Reiniger

Reiniger says most of the tension comes from the fact that while women have made inroads into the previously male-dominated world of business, men have not made as big of an encroachment into traditionally female roles.

"Many men are quite supportive of women in the workforce but they generally have not, with the same level of tenacity, said 'I want to be a part of the home life.' They've been bombarded by the shift in women's roles but their own role hasn't shifted much," Reiniger said.

Reiniger hopes attitudes will change as people realize that business and familial traits are not gender related at all.

"It's not a sob story to say that women do often have to make a tough choice between working hard and trying to raise a family, though many do so extremely effectively. Unfortunately for a long time the stereotype has been that you've got to be a horrible person as a woman to succeed like a man. That's not true," Reiniger said.

Workology in **brief**

FREE SCHOOL A new university billed as the "first non-profit, tuition-free online university" kicks off next month with 178 students between the ages of 16 and 61 from 49 countries. Called "University of the People," the online institution says it is dedicated to the global advancement and democratization of higher education. Students will study business administration and computer science in virtual communities using free online materials and social-networking tools. The founder, Shai Reshef, an Israeli entrepreneur, does expect a high dropout rate.

NUTRITION Increasingly, Canadian employers are realizing that good employee nutrition creates better job productivity and lowers overall costs. According to a recent survey by Buffett and Co. Wellness Consultants, 23.5 per cent — that's nearly one-quarter — of Canadian employers now offer healthy choices in corporate cafeterias in an effort to help employees stay health and remain more alert on the job.

HEATHER BUCHAN/
FOR METRO CANADA

OddJobs
Diane Peters

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Preston not ready to talk about son

Kelly Preston is pulling out of the annual Women's Conference, where she was to break her silence about the death of her teenage son with John Travolta. The actress said in a statement Friday that she is "still deeply in the process of healing, and it's just too soon." POPEATER.COM

Entertainment

Blunt to wed

Emily Blunt and John Krasinski are set to wed. The British actress, 26, and The Office star, 29, have been dating since November, following her split from crooner Michael Buble. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Gay ol' time in fall

New Paradise Falls turns up the quirky

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

Paradise Falls is going gay — more gay — proudly promoting its third season on Showcase as "the gayest CanCon on TV."

"That's hilarious. That's funny. I hadn't heard that," says series regular Salvatore Antonio, who plays gay B&B owner Sasha on the prime time soap.

"But that is one true statement. The show is kind of like Twin Peaks meets Desperate Housewives meets Queer as Folk. It's one quirky show."

Quirky is a good word to describe Paradise Falls. Long before the conniving cougars arrived on Wisteria Lane, Paradise Falls was offering up a heavy dose of cottage-country bad behaviour — all done with a sly wink.

"I think what sets it apart from the usual soap is that it doesn't take itself seriously," says Antonio, who joined the show in its second season.

"It has humour but it also deals with serious issues. But yeah, we are taking the piss out of a lot of stuff."

Not surprisingly, Paradise Falls hasn't had a typical broadcast life on TV either.

Though this is its third season, the show first aired in 2000. This season was in fact filmed in 2007, and has already aired in the U.S. on the specialty network Here-TV.

Co-creator/writer Paula Smith says the sporadic broadcast history has proven a creative plus for the show.

"It's allowed us the time in between to regroup and reinvent the show," she says. "I think a lot of journalists who didn't like the show in the beginning might be surprised we're still around 104 episodes later."

Smith says the increase in gay characters and storylines came about gradually and is, in part, an acknowledgement of its audience at the gay-oriented Here-TV.

"I think when we first began it was more like 10 per cent of the show, but we've become much more gay as we've gone along," she says. "But it's still the same show. We're still taking the soap opera conventions and turning them on their ear. "

That includes a third season opener featuring a gay wedding that threatens to turn into a ménage-a-trois before the honeymoon is even over.

"Without giving too much away — it's a long wedding night," laughs Antonio.

Paradise Falls returns for its third season Sept. 2 on Showcase.

Paradise Falls, now entering its third season, has "become much more gay as we've gone along," says series co-creator and writer Paula Smith.

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Bentley sued by AmEx
American Beauty actor Wes Bentley is allegedly in hot water with American Express — which is suing him for over $90,000 US. According to the lawsuit, Bentley opened a Gold Account with AmEX, charged up $92,738.86, and never paid it off. TMZ.COM

Michael gets remixed by top talent

HONOUR As a tribute to Michael Jackson and his early work, an all-star group of music producers are putting new spins on the late pop star's catalogue.

Michael Jackson: The Remix Suite features 25 remixes of Jackson's classic Motown material as a solo artist and with the Jackson 5, reinterpreted by such marquee producers as Chris (Tricky) Stewart, the Neptunes, Polow Da Don, Rodney Jerkins, Stargate and Paul Oakenfold.

Universal Motown Records will release the tracks gradually, in five-song digital bundles, before the physical album arrives Oct. 27. Each bundle, beginning with the Aug. 25 release of The Remix Suite I, has been designed as an homage that emphasizes Jackson's influence on modern pop production.

The Remix Suite was spearheaded by Universal Motown president Sylvia Rhone, who opened the label's archives and asked each producer to remix a Jackson or Jackson 5 song that had inspired him. "We came up with a long list (of producers), expecting people to be unavailable," Rhone said. "But there was literally not one 'no' answer. People dropped everything they were doing to help out with this."

GETTY IMAGES

A group of producers are putting new spins on Michael Jackson's catalogue of music.

The final list is a diverse group, from reggae specialist Salaam Remi to house music guru Frankie Knuckles. Blink-182's Mark Hoppus said he was shocked that Universal Motown asked him to contribute a track, but added, "Just to be included in a project like this is a huge honour."

The remixes add modern production techniques to Jackson's songs while highlighting the elements that made them classics. Dallas Austin, whose remix of I Wanna Be Where You Are integrates fresh bass guitar and funky synthesizers, slightly altered the instrumentation in order to "futurize" the song and "see what it would sound like today."

His take appears on the first bundle along with remixes by the Neptunes, Stargate, Remi and Polow Da Don.

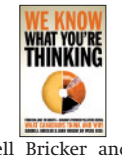
Hoppus, meanwhile, wanted his version of ABC to capture the charm of Jackson's early career. "When we were working, there was such a reverence for the vocals," he recalled. "We tried to keep the spirit of that track, which is more youthful exuberance."

REUTERS

Peer into Canadian brains

We Know What **You're Thinking**

Authors: Darell Bricker & John Wright
Publisher: HarperCollins Canada
Price: $19.99 (Paperback)



Darrell Bricker and John Wright make their livings by telling Canadians about themselves. Now, the high rankers at Canadian market research company Ipsos Reid have compiled choice data on regions, business and individuals, from the humorous through the serious to the shocking, in this new collection of homegrown facts and figures. They discover Albertans are more likely to take a parent to a movie date instead of Hollywood hotshots, Canadian women overwhelmingly prefer the beach for a romantic moment, most doubt the tenets of the environmental movement and Canadians generally don't believe in ghosts, except in the Prairies, where most do.

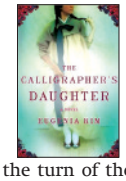
Michael Jackson: The Magic, The Madness, **The Whole Story**

Author: J. Randy Taraborrelli
Publisher: Grand Central Publishing
Price: $22.99 (Hardcover)

Thursday marks the funeral of the late King of Pop, Michael Jackson, days after what would have been his 51st birthday. In commemoration of his death, J. Randy Taraborrelli has re-released an updated version of his thorough chronicle of the troubled star's life, including his final days. At a whopping 765 pages, the 12-part account contains a detailed history of Jackson, including his childhood introduction to music. Having spoken with Jackson since they were children, Taraborrelli's analysis presents an honest portrait of a man misunderstood.

The Calligrapher's **Daughter**

Author: Eugenia Kim
Publisher: Henry Holt
Price: $33 (Hardcover)



After the turn of the 20th Century, Korea is in a struggle between tried traditions and contemporary practices, a battle reflected in Najin Han's life. While her calligrapher father wants her to marry young to secure the upper-class mate he's found for her, Najin's mother refuses, instead sending her to the royal court to find finesse. Najin flourishes, attending college and becoming a teacher while gaining wealth and status. But as the Second World War approaches, poverty and suspicions of being a spy ravage her, as the Japanese gradually overtake the country and people young and old endeavour to understand their place.

— BRIAN COULTON/ FOR METRO CANADA

BookPicks

Box office

Following are the top 10 films at the North American box office for the weekend beginning Aug. 28, according to studio estimates:

1. **The Final Destination:** $28.3 million US
2. **Inglourious Basterds:** $20 million
3. **Halloween 2:** $17.4 million
4. **District 9:** $10.7 million
5. **G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra** $8 million
6. **Julie & Julia:** $7.4 million
7. **The Time Traveler's Wife:** $6.7 million
8. **Shorts:** $4.9 million
9. **Taking Woodstock:** $3.7 million
10. **G-Force:** $2.8 million

REUTERS

Kenya's**Style**

Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: **metronews.ca/movies**

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 8/31/09	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Little Mosque	Sophie	Comedy Fest.	Comedy Fest	CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News (N)	The Insider	How I Met	How I Met	The Soup	How I Met	Final 24 (N) (CC)		News
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		CSI: Miami "Target Specific"		CTV News
	-	-	10 OMNI	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	One Tree Hill (CC)		Poltergeist: The Legacy		Perspectives	Ek Noor (N)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House "Saviors" (PA) (CC)		Lie to Me "Better Half" (CC)		Bones (CC)		News
	256	389	12 VI	The Road to Avonlea		Gossip Girl "Valley Girls"		Two/Half Men	Gary Unmarr	Stargate Atlantis "Inferno"		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Murdoch Mysteries (CC)		Valentine "Hound Dog" (CC)		Murdoch Mysteries (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	One Tree Hill (CC)		Gossip Girl "Valley Girls"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	How I Met	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami "Target Specific"		KIRO News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Dateline NBC (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Old Christine	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Style by Jury	Love It or List It		House-Sell	House	Love It-List It
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	CMA Music Festival: Country's Night to Rock (N) (CC)						KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	U.S. Seals ★★ (1999, Action) Jim Fitzpatrick, Greg Collins.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Antiques	Antiques Roadshow (CC)		History Detectives (N) (CC)		Voyages of Discovery		Wharf Rats
	290	382	23 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Saviors" (PA) (CC)		Lie to Me "Better Half" (CC)		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	26 PBS	Great Performances (N) (CC)			Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Antiques Roadshow (CC)	
	296	654	24 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	South Park	Half & Half	Paid Program	Hatchett	Paid Program
	298	653	66 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill (CC)		Gossip Girl "Valley Girls"		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	33 WGN	MLB Baseball: Astros at Cubs		WGN News	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	57 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	68 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show-Letterman		Late Late Show		Will & Grace	Seinfeld
news	502	390	28 NW	Princesses of the World		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Princesses of the World		National
	500	500	30 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		UFC: Access	MMA Conn	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	20 TSN	Tennis: U.S. Open		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		NASCAR Racing		Motoring 2009	Boxing	SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters (CC)		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	34 SCR	WWE Monday Night Raw		Final Score	24/7	WWE Monday Night Raw (CC)				Cabby Unlimit
	417	406	35 SC	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy (N)	Pass Time	NASCAR Hall of Fame		SuperCars	SuperCars	Auctions
	416	409	144 GLF	(6:00) Fútbol de España		Gol TV News	Ole: La Liga		Gol TV News	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	42 YTV	The Next Star (CC)		The Penguins	Malcolm-Mid.	League-Evil	Zixx Level	The Next Star 2 (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	Punch (CC)	Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	55 TRE	Big Comfy	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Big Comfy
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Undersea	Landscape	Hot Rocks "Salt" (CC)		Sketches of Frank Gehry ★★★ (2005) (CC)			Pnina Granirer	Haida Art
	575	583	60 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	CMT's Greatest		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	40 MM	You Can Dance		Dance	My Date	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	One Tree Hill (CC)		Spotlight
	600	564	43 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Marriage	Income Prop.	My First Place	For Rent	House
	615	520	61 A&E	Hoarders "Tara; Betty" (N)		Paranormal	Paranormal	Intervention "Jeff" (CC)		Intervention "Marci" (CC)		Hoarders
	628	584	62 SPKE	Pros vs. Joes		Pros vs. Joes		Spike's Most Amazing Videos		Spike's Most Amazing Videos		Videos
	521	560	41 TLC	Ultimate Cake Off "Pirates"		Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Ultimate Cake Off "Pirates"		Dancing
	616	522	45 SHO	The Outer Limits "Inner Child"		Disaster Zone: Volcano in New York (2006) Costas Mandylor.				Bones "Pilot" (CC)		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	70 BVO	Bravonews	McLauchlan	Law & Order "Confession"		Without a Trace (CC)		Zelig ★★★ (1983) Woody Allen. (CC)		
	601	562	54 SLC	In Laws	In Laws	ET Canada	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives OC		Trading Spouses		Biggest Loser
	520	505	42 DIS	Heli-Loggers (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters (CC)		Heli-Loggers (CC)		Dirty Jobs
	522	506	44 HIS	World Without Humans		Nostradamus: 2012 Predictions of cataclysm. (CC)				Deep Impact ★★ (1998) Robert Duvall. (CC)		
	627	528	48 SPC	(6:00) Swarmed (2005) (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Insiders"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Ent.
	294	650	67 TBS	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Bill Engvall	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	The Weather Man ★★ (2005) Nicolas Cage, Hope Davis. (CC)			
	619	525	68 TROP	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits (CC)		ET Canada	Comeback	Family Guy	Raymond	Raymond
	603	561	69 FN	At the Table	At the Table	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Food
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Comedy Now	The Simpsons	South Park	Michael Loftus: Changed		Jeff Dunham
	320	621	80 CEN	Hank and Mike (2008, Comedy) Premiere. (CC)			Tracey Ullman	Nurse Jackie	Californication	Dexter "About Last Night"		Durham
	581	566	101 MTV	16 and Pregnant "Life After Labor" (CC)			After	Daddy's Girls	Jazmin	16 and Pregnant "Life After Labor" (CC)		
	261	394	102 V	A Deadly Silence (CC)		Poltergeist: The Legacy		Carousel ★★★ (1956, Musical) Gordon MacRae, Shirley Jones. (CC)				
	-	-	105 MUL	Banquet	Kingdom-Wind	Can't Live Without Her		Marimar		Pinoy	Pinoy Records	Patrol World

critics'corner

Sophie
Now, see, this is why one should never, ever burn one's bridges, especially in showbiz. A certain casting director was on the receiving end of some harsh treatment from Estelle (Sara Botsford) years ago. Now guess who needs work and has to make nice with said casting director. Judith (Mimi Kuzyk) has a new roommate: Ophelia (Chantelle Chung). Natalie Brown also stars in "The Casting Couch." 8:30 PM on CBC

CMA Music Festival: Country's Night to Rock
Trace Adkins, Jason Aldean, Dierks Bentley, Brooks & Dunn, Kenny Chesney, Julianne Hough, Kid Rock, Lady Antebellum, Miranda Lambert, Martina McBride, Reba McEntire, Brad Paisley, Darius Rucker, Sugarland and Taylor Swift are scheduled to perform during this three-hour special culled from the perennial popular country music festival held in Nashville, Tenn., last June. Cameron Mathison hosts. 8 PM on ABC

THE NECKLACE: I got this at a vintage store in Vancouver. It's got my dog's name, Olive, on it. She's my life.

THE SCARF: An L.A. find. I wear this with pretty much anything.

EMILY, Toronto

EMILY'S LOOK: Young classic. Think black and white, with shades of red lipstick. Her simple style has Japanese influences, and a pixie twist. She's turned casual cool into an art form by balancing old with new, fitted with baggy, even ninja pants with grandpa cardigans. If she really was a ninja, her skill would be killer style.

THE TOP: An old Egyptian cotton tank. I find a new hole in it every day, but that doesn't stop me wearing it.

THE PHONE: The cute Samsung Vice.™ I love how it slides out. It makes texting super easy.

THE PANTS: Ninja pants from Joe Fresh. They were a bargain; plus, they're super comfy.

THE SHOES: Ten bucks in Chinatown. Need I say more?

Destination: Low on imagination

The Final Destination

Director: David R. Ellis
Stars: Bobby Camp, Shantel VanSanten, Nick Zano
Classification: 18A

The fourth installment of The Final Destination movies offers up the same uninspiring gorefest as its predecessors with the exception of a new 3-D gimmick.

REVIEW There is no final in The Final Destination, the fourth installment of New Line's body-dismantling gorefest. The franchise threatens to never end. The new gimmick here is that all the flying body parts and absurd impalements come in 3-D. And that's about as inspired as anything gets in this edition. Story and character get chucked to the sidelines as the arena has room only for death scenes.

The Warner Bros.-distributed film opened Friday, in both 2-D and 3-D versions, without press screenings — which makes sense since there isn't much for a critic to do here other than critique the mechanics of the Rube Goldberg deaths.

So here goes: The level of invention by writer Eric Bress and director David R. Ellis — both making their second movie in the franchise — is pretty low. An object tips over here, triggering another accident there and soon an entire car wash or movie theater or auto repair shop is filed with flying lethal objects.

There is a slight sense of macabre humor as characters scan ads for a movie called Till Death Do Us Part or drink lattes at a Death by Caffeine coffee shop. And 3-D does make sharp objects and bloody organs a little more in-your-face to go with those lattes.

A white racist sets himself on fire trying to drunkenly install a burning cross in a black man's front lawn while his car radio blares Why Can't We Be Friends. Yes, that probably will do for lightheartedness.

The format requires an individual, in this case Nick (Bobby Campo), to experience a premonition of impending disaster, this time at a race track, that seemingly saves him and some friends and strangers from horrific deaths. Only death feels cheated and continues to stalk the characters, in the order of their avoided deaths, until they are eliminated.

Since death is never a character — you were expecting maybe Ingmar Bergman? — the film lacks a villain. Since nothing apparently can reverse the determination of death, the only suspense is how characters will die, not whether they will be saved.

REUTERS

Zombie' Halloween is grittier

Halloween II

Director: Rob Zombie
Stars: Sheri Moon Zombie, Chase Wright Vanek
Classification: 18A

Tyler Mane plays killer Michael Myers in Halloween 2.

REVIEW Yes, it's deja vu all over again with this sequel to 2007's $80 million-grossing reboot of the franchise that apparently is as hard to kill off as its central character. (For future Trivial Pursuit purposes, be advised that this is technically not a remake of the 1981 sequel to John Carpenter's original classic.)

This edition, dubbed "the terrifying final chapter" in the ads (another line you probably shouldn't take at face value), begins moments after the last one, with a bloody and clearly traumatized Laurie Strode (Scout Taylor-Compton) convinced that she has dispatched Michael Myers. Well, someone forgot to tell him, because after the police vehicle transporting him to the morgue crashes into an errant cow, he promptly revives and resumes his errant ways.

As with his 2007 effort, director-screenwriter Rob Zombie's approach is far grittier than in the original series. The 1978 film took place in a bucolic suburban setting, which made Michael's murderous rampages all the more shocking. Here, the action occurs in a rural environment populated largely by rednecks and strippers. As a matter of fact, most of Michael's victims pretty much deserve what happens to them.

Even the character of Dr. Loomis, Michael's psychiatrist, has been made darker. Here, as played by a hammy Malcolm McDowell, he's a media-whore opportunist looking to score big bucks for his latest book about his most infamous patient. The other major difference is a fantastical aspect added to the story line, with Michael frequently having visions of his younger self and his dead mother, the latter dressed in angelic white.

REUTERS

Halloween II is now in theatres

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No whiners allowed: Chris

Coldplay's Chris Martin has a major pet peeve: People who whine about their success. "I hate people who complain about being famous," Martin said, according to Showbiz Spy. "I've got my dream life at the moment. I'm not going to complain ..." METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Mark recalls being 'Bad'

BOYS BEHAVING BADLY Celebrating the life of Michael Jackson, DJ and producer Mark Ronson fondly remembers hanging out with the singer in New York during the Bad tour with pal Sean Lennon.

"He had an after-party at his hotel room at the St. Regis and we were making soggies — toilet paper made into a wet ball — and chucking them from the penthouse," Ronson, who was around 12 at the time, told the New York Post.

"It was a terrible, bratty thing to do. But (Michael) did it, too. He was definitely encouraging us. It was pretty cool." METRO WORLD NEWS

No glamour to George's injury

WHOOPS Despite earlier reports that George Clooney had injured his hand in a motorcycle accident in Switzerland, his spokesman says the actor broke his hand by closing a car door on it outside his Italian home. "The doctor has given him 30 to 40 years more to live, and no live animals were harmed during the wrapping of the hand," he said. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Diablo Cody gets rebellious a few years late, Jason Mraz gets philosophical, and Miley Cyrus has trouble living without modern conveniences.

• @diablocody I wasn't allowed to have Crystal Light as a kid, but now I have it every day. In your face, Mom! GLAMOUROUS DIET DRINK!

• @jason_mraz Affirmation. I am in harmony with all of the people, places, and things that surround me in this world. I am at peace.

• @mileycyrus The A/C is broken in my house :(Can't sleep in this sauna of a room! Ahh. METRO WORLD NEWS

Shania's new outlook on life

STARTING FRESH More than a year after splitting from her husband following his affair with her best friend, Shania Twain took to her official site to tell fans she's doing great and to announce her new relationship, usmagazine.com reports.

On Friday night, the country singer's 44th birthday, she posted a personal letter and a 15-minute video travelogue of her most memorable moments from the past year.

"I feel very alive and well, ready to take on the gift of another year," Twain wrote. The star split from her husband, Robert (Mutt) Lange in May 2008 after he had an affair with her longtime best friend, Marie-Anne Thiebaud. "I consider myself on a journey of discovery and recovery," she said of life post-split. "I don't accept to be held down by the past, nor do I expect too much of the future."

Who is accompanying Twain on that journey? Thiebaud's ex-husband, Frederic Thiebaud, whom Twain calls "a dear friend and true gentleman."

"We leaned on one another through the ups and downs, taking turns holding each other up. We've become stronger and closer through it all." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Getting naked no problem: Anna

SELF CONFIDENCE Anna Paquin has "no problem" with nudity, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Oscar-winning actress, who regularly flashes her flesh in the TV show True Blood, insists people should loosen up when it comes to stripping off.

She said: "People are just too uptight when it comes to nudity. I don't see what the big deal is about showing people as they actually are and if they are having sex presumably they are naked. On my planet they are anyway. I have no problem with it."

The 27-year-old star said that landing a role in vampire drama True Blood helped her become more comfortable with her body. Paquin confessed she was initially worried about wearing skimpy clothes in the show, but a shopping trip eased her fears.

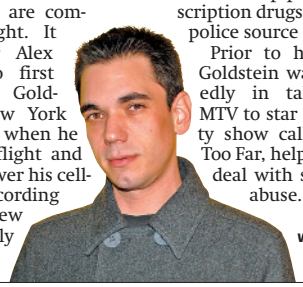
"After I was cast and I realized my body would be exposed all the time, I went out and bought some shorts — I owned none — to help me get used to it," she said. "You stop thinking, 'Do I look weird at this angle?' I've learned to feel comfortable wearing very little. It's liberating." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Details of DJ AM's death emerge

TRAGIC END As friends and loved ones react to the death of DJ AM, whose real name was Adam Goldstein, details about his tragic end are coming to light. It was actor Alex Burn who first rushed to Goldstein's New York apartment when he missed a flight and didn't answer his cellphone, according to the New York Daily News.

After calling police to break the door down, they reportedly found Goldstein face down on his bed, with a crack pipe and prescription drugs nearby, a police source says.

Prior to his death, Goldstein was reportedly in talks with MTV to star in a reality show called Gone Too Far, helping teens deal with substance abuse. METRO WORLD NEWS



Romance rumours justifiable

THAT TOTALLY MAKES SENSE Kristen Stewart "understands" why people think she is dating Robert Pattinson, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress has been continuously romantically linked to her Twilight co-star and although she admits they are "close," Stewart claims they are just pals.

She said: "Robert and I are great friends but I understand why you would assume that, when we lean on each other for support, there must be something more.

"And I'm not criticizing anyone for thinking it either. If anything, they're really perceptive because they can see a closeness." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lily's song scares men

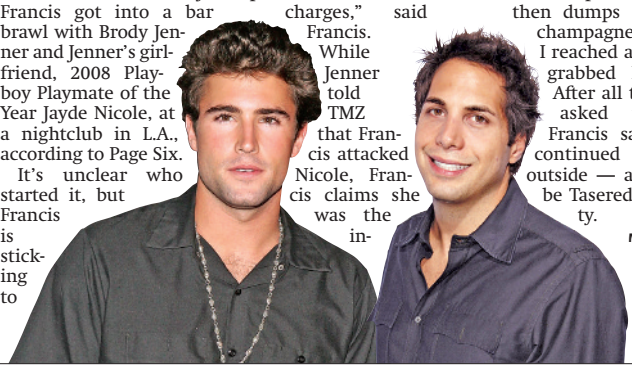
BAD REPUTATION Lily Allen has been having trouble finding a new man, and she admits she only has herself to blame because she's written songs like Not Fair, about how bad some men she's dated are in bed.

"I wish I'd never written Not Fair," Allen told Elle magazine. "You know, the thought honestly — really, honestly — never even occurred to me that it would scare men. I thought it might empower women. I thought women would go, 'Oh God, yes, at last somebody is saying it.' I didn't think it would put me in a position where guys would be like, 'Whoa, no, I'm not sleeping with you in case you write something about it!"' METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebs go wild in bar brawl

FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT! Girls Gone Wild honcho Joe Francis got into a bar brawl with Brody Jenner and Jenner's girlfriend, 2008 Playboy Playmate of the Year Jayde Nicole, at a nightclub in L.A., according to Page Six.

It's unclear who started it, but Francis is sticking to his story. "I'm going to the police to file assault charges," said Francis. While Jenner told TMZ that Francis attacked Nicole, Francis claims she was the instigator. "She comes up behind me, pushes me, and then dumps a glass of champagne on me, so I reached around and grabbed her hair." After all three were asked to leave, Francis says Jenner continued the fight outside — and had to be Tasered by security. METRO WORLD NEWS



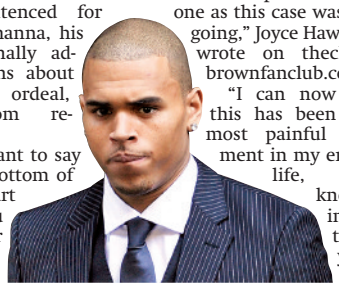
Mom thanks fans for support

ON SON'S BEHALF Just days after Chris Brown was formally sentenced for beating Rihanna, his mother finally addressed fans about the ordeal, popeater.com reports.

"I just want to say from the bottom of my heart thank you for your continued support. I'm sorry I wasn't allowed to speak to anyone as this case was ongoing," Joyce Hawkins wrote on thechrisbrownfanclub.com.

"I can now say this has been the most painful moment in my entire life, but knowing that you were still standing by Chris' side in his time of need made this a little easier for us," she added.

Last week, a judge ordered Brown to serve five years probation and perform six months of community service for his role in the February attack. Brown was also ordered to stay 100 yards away from Rihanna during the period of his probation. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Jason attacked by monkey

MAYBE IT WASN'T A FAN? While on a backpacking trip to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the American Pie film, actor Jason Biggs was caught off guard in Gibraltar when a monkey jumped on him and tried to bite his face off, according to Gatecrasher.

"Jason's travelling companions managed to fend the beast off and Jason thankfully wasn't seriously hurt, just shaken up," a source said. Biggs reportedly ended his trip early after the attack and headed back to the United States. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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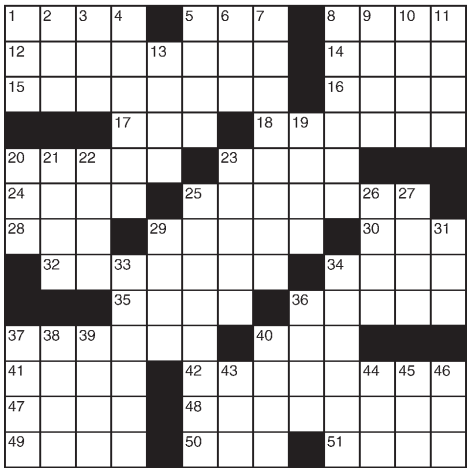

ACROSS

1 Ali —
5 Spanish article
8 Surrounded by
12 Plentiful
14 Paddock papa
15 Morning-after woe
16 PC picture
17 Meadow
18 The same amount
20 Peptic problem
23 One-time Yugoslav leader
24 Twosome
25 Exceed a limit
28 Hot tub
29 Get more magazines
30 Rotation duration
32 Hollow quick bread
34 Stupor
35 Falsifier
36 GSN telecasts
37 Preserve to protect from decay
40 Diving bird
41 Change
42 Sweater type
47 Birthright barterer
48 Volcanic boom
49 Flight component
50 Poorly lit
51 Actress Paquin

DOWN

1 Scrooge's cry
2 Lawyers' org.
3 Chignon
4 Fisherman
5 Outflow from 48-Across
6 Indivisible
7 Sieve
8 I, Robot author
9 Isinglass
10 Press
11 Say it isn't so
13 Active person
19 Pack cargo
20 Boom times
21 Arctic European
22 "Arrivederci"
23 Piano man?
25 Made quite a few changes
26 Cheese choice
27 Demolish
29 Anger
31 "Of course"
33 Emphasize
34 John Lennon's last home
36 Swallow hard
37 Prior nights
38 Sail support
39 Highland hillside
40 Astringent
43 Mentalist Geller
44 Sportscaster Scully
45 A billion years
46 Genetic substance

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

3		6	1				7	
				3				
				4	5			1
9		2			4	5		
6		3				8		4
		4	6			7		3
7			4	9				
				6				
	9				1	3		5

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

3	4	9	6	7	2	1	8	5
5	6	1	8	3	9	4	2	7
8	2	7	4	5	1	3	6	9
7	3	8	1	9	6	2	5	4
9	5	4	7	2	8	6	3	1
2	1	6	3	4	5	7	9	8
4	9	3	2	8	7	5	1	6
6	7	5	9	1	3	8	4	2
1	8	2	5	6	4	9	7	3

On the web

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Metro Recipe of the Day

Fennel Stuffed Cod

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup (250 ml) plain yogurt
2-1/4 cups (550 ml) finely chopped fennel fronds, divided
1 tsp (5 ml) lemon juice
1 tsp (5 ml) snipped chives
1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) salt, optional
1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) pepper
2 celery ribs, chopped
1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped onion
2 to 4 tbsp (25 to 60 ml) vegetable oil
4 cups (1 l) stuffing croutons
1 cup (250 ml) chicken broth
2 eggs, beaten
4 cod or flounder fillets
1 medium lemon, sliced

METHOD:

1. For sauce, combine yogurt, 1/4 cup (50 ml) of fennel, lemon juice, chives, salt if desired and pepper in bowl. Cover and refrigerate 2 hours or overnight.
2. In small skillet, sauté celery and onion in oil until tender. Remove from heat. Stir in croutons, broth, eggs and remaining fennel. Spoon about 1 cup (250 ml) stuffing mixture onto each fillet; roll fish around stuffing.
3. Transfer to greased 2-qt. (2-l) baking dish. Top each with lemon slice. Bake, uncovered, at 350 F (180 C) 30-35 minutes or until fish flakes easily with fork and thermometer inserted into stuffing reads 160 F (71 C). Serve with fennel sauce.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Your thoughts may be rather heavy as the new week begins but that's good in that you need to get serious about what you're going to be doing.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Are you the victim of a plot or whispering campaign? Maybe, but more likely it is just your imagination playing tricks on you again.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You may find it hard to understand why certain people act in certain ways, but there is no point getting uptight about it because they won't change.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't give up on a project just because you suspect the results will be less than you hoped for. Having come so far it would be a shame to abandon it now.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You will start the week with high hopes but it won't be long before you realize that there are some serious obstacles up ahead.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The planets indicate someone annoyed you over the weekend and you're determined to get back at them. But they're not worth the effort. Let it pass.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Don't take anything too seriously today: The planets indicate it will be hard to see the good things if you focus too readily on the bad.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You would dearly like to help someone who is struggling but you know if you do they will never learn to look after themselves.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You will have to work hard as the new week begins, mainly to catch up on all the things you should have done last week.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Are you making the most of your time? That's what you need to ask yourself as the new week begins. The planets indicate you've let things slip.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You may be tempted to tear down everything you have achieved and start again from scratch, but is that necessary? Don't junk the essentials.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
The cosmic setup means it's natural for you to worry, but don't let it get out of hand. This week you'll see you're on the verge of a breakthrough.

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WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Mouse Jerry foe's school dances (1)
2. Dog Otis's partner's farm buildings (2)
3. Weak cartoon cat with Ren (2)
4. "9Lives ad cat, meet actress Day" (2)
5. Three little baby cats' winter wear (2)
6. Boots-wearing cat's downhill ski runs (2)
7. Stress applied by a smiling Wonderland cat (2)

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

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ANSWERS
1. TOMS PROMS 2. MILOS SILOS 3. WIMPY STIMPY 4. MORRIS DORIS
5. KITTENS MITTENS 6. PUSSS SCHUSSES 7. CHESHIRE PRESSURE

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